

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A shoe, comprising:
 - (a) a bottom portion that includes a sole portion and a heel portion and
 that has a bottom surface; and
 - (b) an upper portion extending upwardly from the bottom portion,
 wherein the bottom surface of the bottom portion of the shoe has areas of
10 a fabric material interspersed with areas of a durable material that is
 substantially more durable than the fabric material,
 wherein the bottom surface has a portion that contacts the ground in
 normal use, and wherein the fabric material covers at least 50% of said portion
 that contacts the ground in normal use.
- 15 2. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein the durable material is
 comprised of a synthetic rubber.
3. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein the fabric material and the
20 durable material alternate at least 4 times when traversing a straight line across
 the bottom surface of the shoe.
4. A shoe according to claim 3, wherein center-to-center spacing
 between the areas of fabric material and the areas of durable material is less
25 than 5 millimeters but greater than 0.2 millimeter.
5. A shoe according to claim 3, wherein center-to-center spacing
 between the fabric material and the durable material in the area is less than 3
 millimeters but greater than 0.2 millimeter.
- 30 6. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein a second durable material,
 which is substantially more durable than the fabric material, is disposed directly
 beneath the areas of fabric material.

7. A shoe according to claim 6, wherein the second durable material consists of a same material as the durable material.

8. A shoe according to claim 6, wherein the fabric material also is disposed directly beneath the areas of the durable material.

9. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein the fabric material is comprised of cloth.

10. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein at least one piece of the fabric material has an edge that is frayed.

11. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein the fabric material is multi-colored.

12. A shoe according to claim 1, further comprising foxing extending along an outer edge of the shoe from the bottom portion of the shoe to the upper portion of the shoe, wherein the fabric material extends upwardly along the edge of the shoe underneath the foxing.

13. A shoe according to claim 1, further comprising a sock comprised of a second material, and wherein the fabric material and the second material are imprinted with a substantially similar design pattern.

14. A shoe according to claim 1, further comprising a sock comprised of a second material, and wherein the fabric material and the second material are imprinted with complementary design patterns.

15. A shoe according to claim 13, wherein the sock has been formed by injection molding.

16. A method for forming the bottom portion of a shoe, said method comprising:

- (a) placing a piece of perforated material into a mold for the bottom portion of the shoe;
 - (b) inserting a durable material into the mold on top of the perforated material, subject to at least one of the following: (i) the durable material is injected into the mold in liquid form, and (ii) at least a portion of the durable material nearest to the perforated material is caused to melt after insertion into the mold; and
 - (c) causing the durable material to harden into solid form.
- 10 17. A method according to claim 16, wherein the durable material is substantially more durable than the perforated material.
- 15 18. A method according to claim 16, wherein the durable material is comprised of at least one of synthetic rubber, natural rubber, polyvinyl chloride, ethylene vinyl acetate, thermoplastic rubber, thermoplastic elastomer and plastic.
19. A method according to claim 16, wherein the perforated material is perforated with holes having a dimension greater than 0.5 millimeter.
- 20 20. A method according to claim 16, wherein step (a) comprises placing plural pieces of the perforated material into the mold.
21. A method according to claim 16, wherein the perforated material is comprised of cloth.
- 25 22. A method according to claim 16, wherein the perforated material is a textile material.
- 30 23. A method according to claim 16, further comprising a step of placing a preformed piece of a second durable material, which is substantially more durable than the perforated material, into the mold prior to placing the perforated material into the mold.

24. A method according to claim 16, wherein the perforated material is multi-colored.

25. A method of manufacturing the bottom portion of a shoe,
5 comprising:

- (a) inserting a piece of a first material into a mold for a bottom portion of a shoe, the mold having a surface pattern that includes sharp edges and/or points;
- 10 (b) inserting a second material into the mold on top of the first material, subject to at least one of the following: (i) the second material is injected into the mold in liquid form, and (ii) at least a portion of the second material nearest to the first material is caused to melt after insertion into the mold; and
- (c) causing the second material to harden into solid form,
- 15 wherein the first material is forced into the mold so as to tear against the sharp edges and/or points.

26. A method according to claim 25, wherein the first material is imprinted with a design.

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27. A method according to claim 25, wherein the first material is a fabric material.

28. A method according to claim 25, wherein the first material is multi-
25 colored.

29. A method according to claim 25, wherein the second material is substantially more durable than the first material.

30. A method according to claim 25, wherein the second material is
30 inserted into the mold as a solid piece and is heated and pressed against the fabric material and mold.

31. A method according to claim 30, wherein heat is applied to a side of the second material closest to the mold.

32. A method according to claim 25, wherein the first material is a
5 plastic.